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ABSTRACT

The annual dropout and migration statistics report of the District of Columbia public schools reflects the guidelines, definitions, and tracking procedures of the District schools. School year 1991-92 was the third year of implementation of the present dropout-accounting system. The report contains dropout and migration statistics for student leavers in secondary grades only. The systemwide dropout rate for grades 7-12 was 8.23 percent, which reflected a slight decline from the previous school year. In proportion to their membership totals, Hispanic students had the highest dropout rate and were followed by African Americans, although the 1991-92 figures represent a dramatic decline in the dropout rate for Hispanic students that was due primarily to shifts in the adult-age population of Hispanic students. Male students dropped out at a slightly higher rate than female students. Slightly more than one-quarter of the students were below the legal dropout age. The dropout rate was highest for students in alternative schools. The out-of-city migration rate was 2.04 percent, which represents a slight decline from the previous year. Five tables present rates and statistics. An appendix provides supplemental information on rates and on the individual public schools. (SLD)

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ED 377 264

DROPOUT AND MIGRATION STATISTICS

District of Columbia Public Schools
School Year 1991-92

Franklin L. Smith

Superintendent of Schools

Chief State School Officer

July 1993

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District of Columbia Public Schools

Dropout and Migration Statistics
School Year 1991-92

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PREFACE

School year 1991-92 was the third year of implementation of the D.C. Public Schools (DCPS) dropout accounting system. The dropout accounting system was developed under the auspices of the Dropout Statistics Field Test conducted by the U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). The purpose of the field test was to solicit the input of states, the District of Columbia and U.S. Territories in devising national standards for dropout accounting due to the lack of comparability between reported dropout rates, as well as the inadequacy of the longitudinal method being used to compute dropout rates.

This report reflects the refinement of data collection and verification procedures developed for DCPS over the course of the NCES field test, and is based on student data obtained from the official membership files of the Student Information Management System (SIMS). Dropouts are defined according to the definition adopted by the DCPS school board in 1986, which has recently been expanded to include the definition adopted by the U.S. Department of Education, National Cooperative Education System (see Appendix).

This report contains dropout and migration statistics for students "leavers" (i.e., dropouts, transfers, and incapacitated) in secondary grades only (grades 7-12). Demographic breakdowns (i.e., geographical and biographical) for dropouts are included, as well as a summary of dropout trends and projections. In addition, issues pertaining to the reliability of the student data collected annually over the past three years are discussed, along with a clarification of differences in the dropout rates reported by the U.S. Department of Education and DCPS.

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SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

The system-wide dropout rate for D.C. Public Schools (DCPS) secondary students (grades 7-12) during school year 1991-92 was 8.23%. This rate reflects a slight decline of 0.87% from the previous school year.

Dropouts by Ethnic Group, Gender, Age and Grade

Ethnic Group. In proportion to their membership totals, Hispanic students had the highest rate (8.35%) and African-American students had the next highest rate (8.14%). Asian and white students had the lowest dropout rates in proportion to their membership totals (6.96% and 6.19% respectively). American-Indian students had a dropout rate of 42.86%, however, this reflects a small ethnic group membership with only three dropouts.

From the previous year, dropout rates showed a slight increase for African-American and white students (by less than 1% each), but declined for Asian (by 1.45%) and Hispanic students (by nearly one-half; from 255 dropouts to 149 dropouts).

For Hispanic students, who comprised a membership of 1784 secondary students, the dramatic decline in their dropout rate can be attributed to a number of factors, but primarily to shifts in the adult-age population of Hispanic students. The overall number of Hispanic student "leavers", including transfers, declined by 94 students (from 337 to 243) which also included 92 fewer Hispanic leavers over 18 years old. The overall number of Hispanic dropouts declined by 106 students from the previous year (from 255 to 149), which included 96 fewer dropouts over 18 years old. Also, the number of Hispanic students transferred to adult education centers increased from 0 to 26 over the previous year. Apart from these trends, it is likely that notable improvements in the quality of student data, overall, accounts for a portion of the decline in the Hispanic dropout rate as well.

Gender. In proportion to their membership totals, male students dropped out at a slightly higher rate than female students (8.55% and 7.94%, respectively). From the previous year, the number of male dropouts declined (by 1.21%), while the number of female dropouts increased slightly (by less than 1%).

Age. Slightly more than one-fourth (26.88%) of the dropouts were below the legal dropout age (i.e., less than 16 years old at the close of SY 1991-92). Slightly more than one-fourth (26.88%) were between 16 and 17 years old, and 41.2% were above the age of 18 years old, including 4.95% over 21 years old. From the previous year, dropouts under 16 years old increased, particularly for ages

12-13 years old (by 6.30%), and dropouts between 18-19 and 20-21 years old declined (by 9.22% and 5.33%, respectively).

Grade. Dropout rates were highest at grades 10 and 11 (12.24% and 11.59%, respectively), with the lowest rates reported in grades 7 and 8 (3.99% and 3.95%, respectively). From the previous year, dropout rates for grades 7 through 10 each declined (by as much as 2.59%), while grades 11 and 12 showed increases (by 0.26% and 1.61%, respectively). Also, the number of "ungraded" dropouts increased by more than 3 times over the previous year (from 60 to 202 dropouts). The notable increase in ungraded student is most likely attributed to improved dropout identification procedures for Spingarn STAY, D.C. Street Academy and Ballou STAY alternative education schools which enroll the majority of students classified as ungraded. In previous years, an "attrition" formula was used to off-set the number of students unaccounted for through tracking procedures at these and other schools. Thus, while unaccounted students were estimated and included in the system-wide dropout rate for the previous year, they could not be identified by grade, ethnic group or gender.

Dropouts by School Type and Ward

School Type. With respect to school site and program level, the dropout rate was highest in the alternative schools at 43.49%. The dropout rate was 7.43% at the senior high schools; 4.47% at the junior high schools; 5.68% at the extended elementary schools; and 1.92% at the special education centers. From the previous school year, the dropout rates in all school settings declined except in the alternative schools which showed a notable increase (by nearly 5 times; from 183 to 879 students).

Ward. The lowest dropout rates were found in Wards 2 and 6 (2.52% and 4.27%, respectively), while Wards 8 and 5 had the highest rates (11.88% and 15.41%, respectively). From the previous year, increased dropout rates were found only in Wards 5,7 and 8 (by as much as 4.79%). The largest decline was found in Ward 1 (by 8.70%).

Migration Trends and Other Secondary School Leavers

Migration from DCPS included out-of-city transfers (out-migration) as well as inner-city transfers to optional educational programs such as D.C. private schools, DCPS adult education programs and D.C. Job Corps. The out-migration rate was 2.04%, which was a slight decline (by less than 1%) from the previous year. The number of overall transfers to optional education programs increased slightly (by less than 1%; from 138 to 160 students) but this reflects a notable decline in private school

transfers (by one-half; from 104 to 59 students) and a notable increase in transfers to DCPS adult education programs (by 6 times; from 10 to 67 students). The number of Job Corp transfers increased slightly (by less than 1%; from 24 to 34 students).

The overall number of incapacitated students declined slightly (by less than 1%; from 131 students to 120 students), which is mostly attributed to a decline in student deaths and serious illnesses (by less than 1%; from 48 to 34 students).

4-Year Dropout Rate Projection

Using the SY 1991-92 dropout data collected for each grade level, the dropout rate over the next four years has been projected for this 9th grade cohort of students (Note: Synthetic Cohort projection formula adopted from NCES). However, this projection assumes that: (1) grade level dropout rates will remain constant over the four year period; and (2) dropouts will not return to school. Projection rates are useful in estimating the course of status quo in the absence of dropout interventions.

The four-year projected dropout rate (between SY 1991-92 and SY 95-96) for the present 9th graders is 35.92% (see Appendix). This projected rate is slightly lower (by less than 1%) than the projection for the previous 9th grade cohort, and reflects the overall decline in the annual rate for senior high students (grades 9-12).

DATA RELIABILITY AND LIMITATIONS

Dropout Accounting Procedures

The data collection and verification procedures used in the dropout accounting system have been refined over the course of three years in consultation with National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) Dropout Statistics Field Test. Automated as well as numerous manual procedures have been implemented to ensure accurate and complete information on the status and location of all student "leavers" identified through the Student Information Management System (SIMS). Also, the attrition formula used to reconcile the annual "head-count" of student leavers with year-to-year membership statistics show that all students enrolled in DCPS during SY 1991-92 have been accounted for, with the inclusion of 74 duplicates who could not be accurately identified and reconciled due to incomplete student records. It is, therefore, maintained that the dropout accounting system has reliably identified students leavers contained within the official student membership files of SIMS for SY 1991-92 and has exhausted relevant student information contained within the local schools pertaining to voluntary withdrawals, prolonged absences, designated transfer sites and incapacitated students.

However, it is also noted that the system-wide under-utilization of the SIMS, as well as inconsistent data entry procedures at the local schools required the dropout accounting system to solicit status information manually from local schools to ensure accuracy. It is likely that these manual procedures introduced a measure of random error variance into the data collection process beyond that expected from the strict retrieval of information from SIMS. Also, these manual procedures are time-consuming and prohibit additional verification measures by the Research and Evaluation Branch, such as the verification of out-of-city and adult education transfers.

Comparing Dropout Rates Reported by DCPS and the U.S. Department of Education

In comparing the dropout rate computed by the DCPS Research and Evaluation Branch with that reported by the Department of Education (DOE), a number of issues are emphasized. First, this will be the first year that the DOE will report annual dropout statistics compiled from school district data. Prior to this reporting, the DOE has used data from the U.S. Bureau of Census to determine the "status" dropout rate, and have used a cohort formula to determine the "longitudinal" rate (NCES, 1991a). While both of these methods have controversial short-comings, as evidenced by the

need for the NCES Dropout Statistics Field Test, it is even more important to note here the implications of these figures and how their interpretation has confounded the reporting and use of dropout statistics.

Briefly, the status dropout rate reported by NCES for the District of Columbia is based on census data which indicates the District of Columbia has a dropout rate of 19.1%,. Without debating the accuracy of census data for the District of Columbia, this rate reflects the number of individuals or residents between the ages of 16 and 19 years old residing within the District of Columbia who have not completed high school and are not presently enrolled in school. It is important to note that not all individuals comprising this rate attended the public schools of the District of Columbia. Also, the rate reflects the overall city status and is not confined to a single school year. Therefore, the reported rate of 19.1% is indicative of the number of city residents who dropped out of their school program, wherever they attended school, and does not represent the dropout rate for the public schools of the District of Columbia. This is particularly important to note since Washington, D.C., being the nation's capitol, has a highly transient foreign population.

The longitudinal dropout rate reported by NCES is estimated at around 40% for the public schools of the District of Columbia. The longitudinal formula examines the graduation rate of the ninth grade class (cohort) enrolled in high school four years earlier. After using census data to adjust for out-migration, the formula assumes that all students who did not graduate did, in fact, drop out. First, for the District of Columbia, there has been much debate over the use of an out-migration statistic collected on an infrequent basis such as through the census. While the census out-migration data may be appropriately used for most states, this statistic is particularly insensitive to the District of Columbia as a city where movement from the school district or city keeps the out-migration statistic for the District of Columbia in a constantly changing status. Also, the formula does not account for the number of students retained in grade, which has been found to be as high as 20% for DCPS 10th graders only, and does not account for students transferring to adult education programs. Students, such as these, who do not graduate with their cohort are inappropriately identified as dropouts. Finally, while the longitudinal rate represents a 4-year dropout rate, this statistic is often misinterpreted as an annual rate, thus resulting in a grossly distorted picture of the DCPS dropout problem.

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SECONDARY SCHOOL

"LEAVERS" STATISTICS

SCHOOL LEAVERS STATISTICS
D.C. PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Year 1991-92
(Grades 7-12)

		Number	% of Fall '91 Membership
ATTRITION			
a/	TOTAL FALL '91 MEMBERSHIP	32,114	
b/	TOTAL FALL '92 CONTINUED COHORT MEMBERSHIP	-25,224	78.54
c/	TOTAL SCHOOL LEAVERS (Attrition)	6,890	21.45
SCHOOL LEAVERS COUNTED			
d/	Graduates	3,385	10.54
e/	Transfers:		
	* Out-migration (out-of-city)	654	2.04
	* Optional Education Programs:	160	0.50
	- D.C. Private School (59)		
	- DCPS Adult Educ Ctr (67)		
	- Job Corp (34)		
	Incapacitated:	120	0.37
f/	* Court Ordered Withdrawal (84)		
	* Death/Illness (36)		
g/	Dropouts:	2,645	8.23
h/	* Voluntary Withdrawal (698)		
i/	* Left W/O Explanation (1,947)		
	TOTAL SCHOOL LEAVERS	6,964	21.68

Attrition Difference

Attrition	6890	
School Leavers Counted	-6964	
j/	+74	(0.23%)

SY 1991-92
DROPOUT RATE $\frac{2645}{32114} = 0.0823 \times 100 = 8.23\%$

a/ Based on validated Fall '91 (October 18, 1991) enrollment for secondary students (N=29,964) in grades Ungraded, 7-12, plus late entrants between October 19, 1991 and June 1, 1992

b/ Continued enrollment of Fall '91 cohort in Fall '92 {i.e., Fall '92 students in grades 8-12 (n=25,092), minus Fall '92 new entrants into D.C. Public Schools for grades 8-12 (n=253), plus Fall '91 cohort retained in grade 7 (n=385)}.

c/ School leavers include all students enrolled during school year 1991-92 but who did not re-enroll the following Fall '92 including graduates, transfers, the incapacitated and dropouts.

d/ Includes Spring and Summer '92 graduates

e/ Students transferring to DCPS alternative education programs are not considered to be DCPS school leavers; students transferring to DCPS adult education centers are considered to be DCPS leavers since adult education students are not counted in the official DCPS membership

f/ Court-ordered withdrawals including juvenile offenders sentenced to Oak Hill and Cedar Knolls detention centers

g/ Dropouts include secondary students withdrawn from all regular academic, alternative and special education programs

h/ Students withdrawn after giving some type of notification;

i/ Students withdrawn after prolonged absences of 45 or more consecutive school days who did not re-enroll in an educational program by October 18, 1992 (according to the official definition of a dropout; see Appendix)

j/ due to duplicate student records, school leavers 'counted' exceeded the actual "attrition" number by 74 students; incomplete biographical records did not permit the complete reconciliation of duplicate student withdrawals

PERCENT OF STUDENT LEAVERS
FROM SECONDARY MEMBERSHIP
(N=32,114)

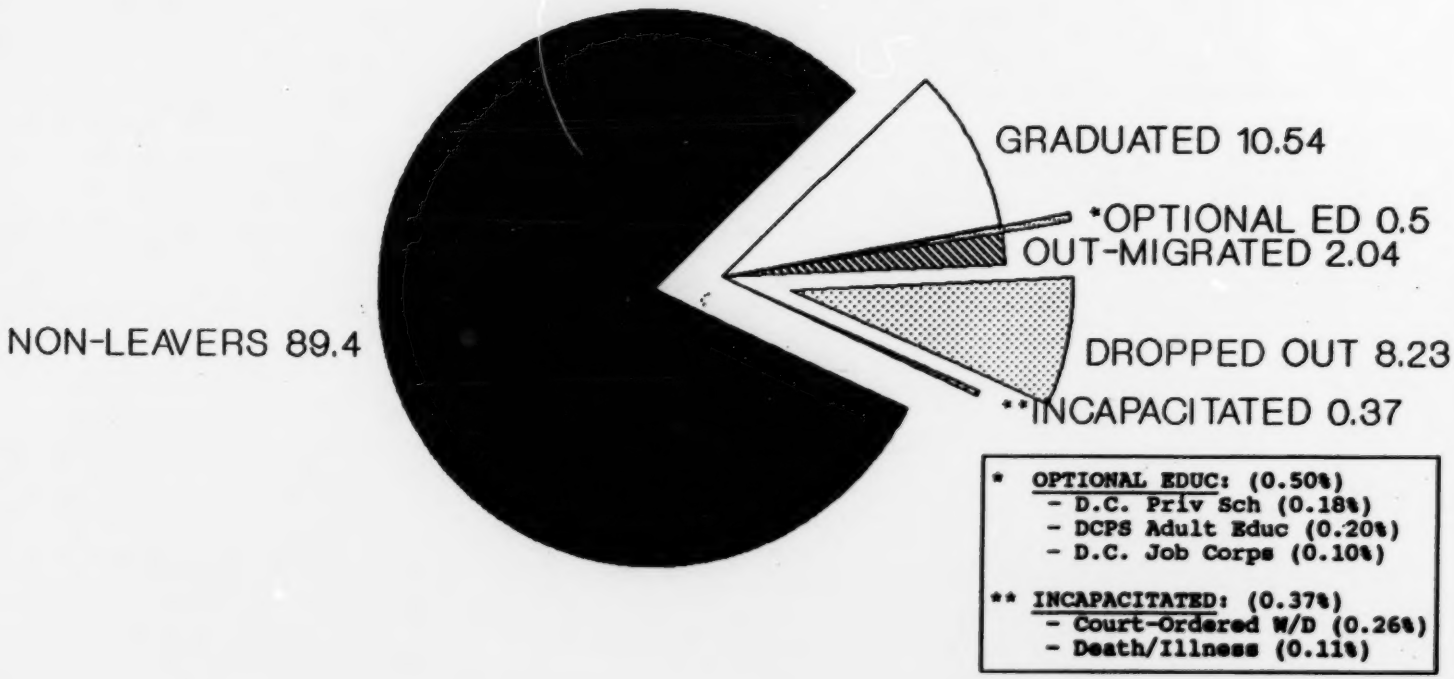

FIGURE 1

DROPOUT RATES BY

GROUP MEMBERSHIP

(Secondary Students Only)

DROPOUTS BY GROUP MEMBERSHIP
D.C. PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Year 1991-92
(Grades 7-12)

DROPOUTS	Total Number	Dropouts as %age of Respective Membership Group x/	Percent of Total Dropouts
OVERALL	2645	8.23	100.00
Race/Ethnic			
African-Amer	2366	8.14	89.45
1/ Amer-Indian	3	42.86	.11
Asian	33	6.96	1.25
Hispanic	149	8.35	5.63
White	48	6.19	1.81
m/ Unidentified	46	N/A	1.74
n/ Gender			
Male	1335	8.55	50.47
Female	1310	7.94	49.53
o/ Age			
12-13	242	SEE NOTE:	9.15
14-15	469		17.73
16-17	711		26.88
18-19	696		26.31
20-21	223		8.43
Over 21	173		6.54
p/ Unidentified	131		4.95
Grade			
q/ Ungraded	202	9.36	7.64
07	228	3.99	8.62
08	206	3.95	7.78
09	457	8.62	17.28
10	676	12.24	26.56
11	506	11.59	19.13
12	370	9.62	13.99
7-9	891	5.49	33.68
9-12	2009	10.55	75.95
10-12	1552	11.30	58.68

k/ dropouts as a percentage of their respective race, gender age, and grade membership

l/ percent based on a membership total of 7 students

m/ incomplete biographical records prevented the classification of 46 dropouts by race

n/ SY 1991-92 secondary male membership = 15,620 secondary female membership = 16,494

o/ 73.61% of dropouts left without explanation and did not formally withdraw, including dropouts under the legal age (under 16 years old by the close of SY 1991-92).

p/ incomplete biographical data prevented the classification of 131 dropouts by age;

q/ ungraded students include special education students who did not have a grade specification in their regular academic school or special education center, and students who were unclassified due to their participation in the English as a Second Language (ESL) Program, or participated in Spingarn S.T.A.Y and Ballou S.T.A.Y. alternative programs

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NOTE: Student membership data not presently available by age

PERCENT OF DROPOUTS FROM RACE MEMBERSHIP
(n=RESPECTIVE RACE MEMBERSHIP)

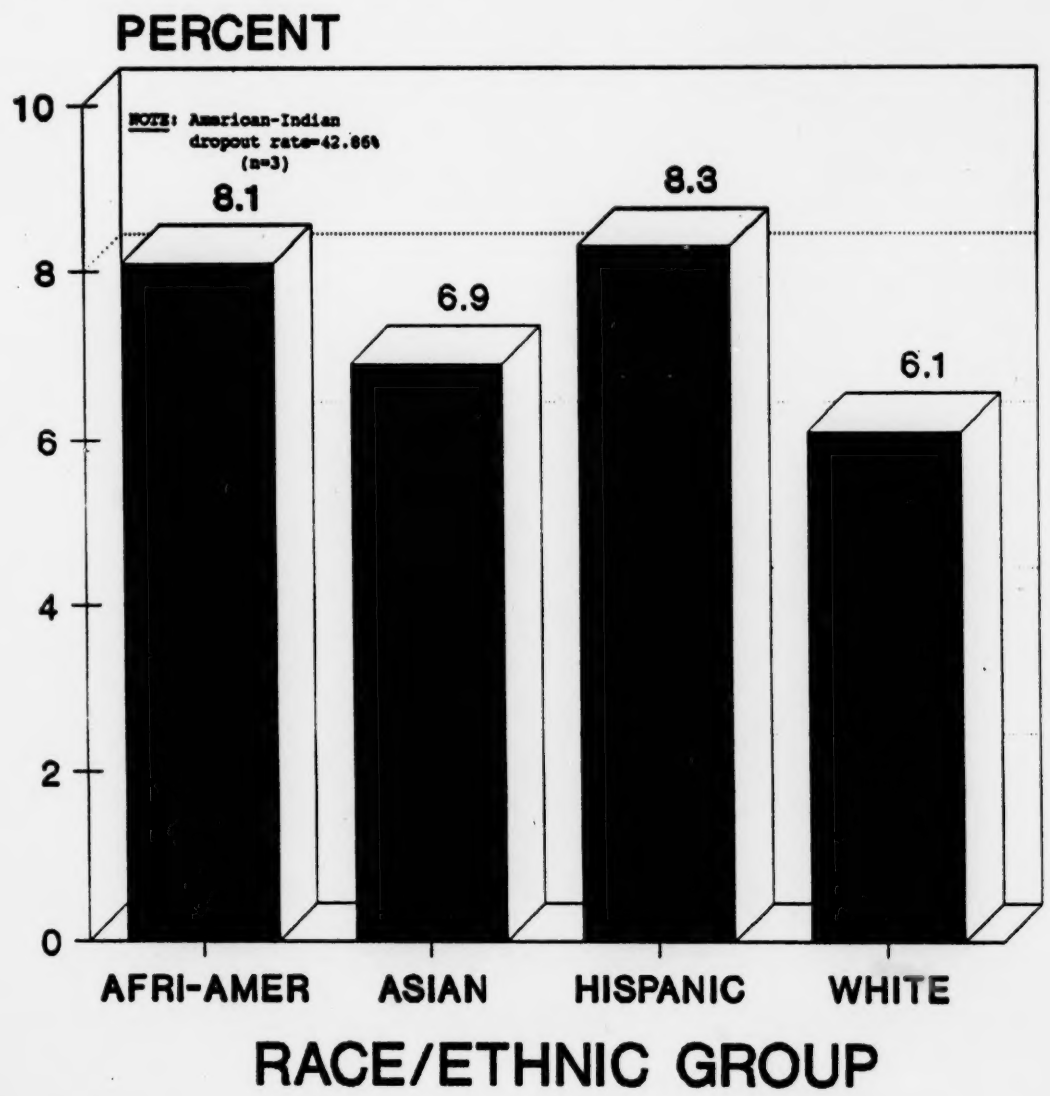

FIGURE 2

PERCENT OF DROPOUTS FROM GENDER MEMBERSHIP

(n=RESPECTIVE GENDER MEMBERSHIP)

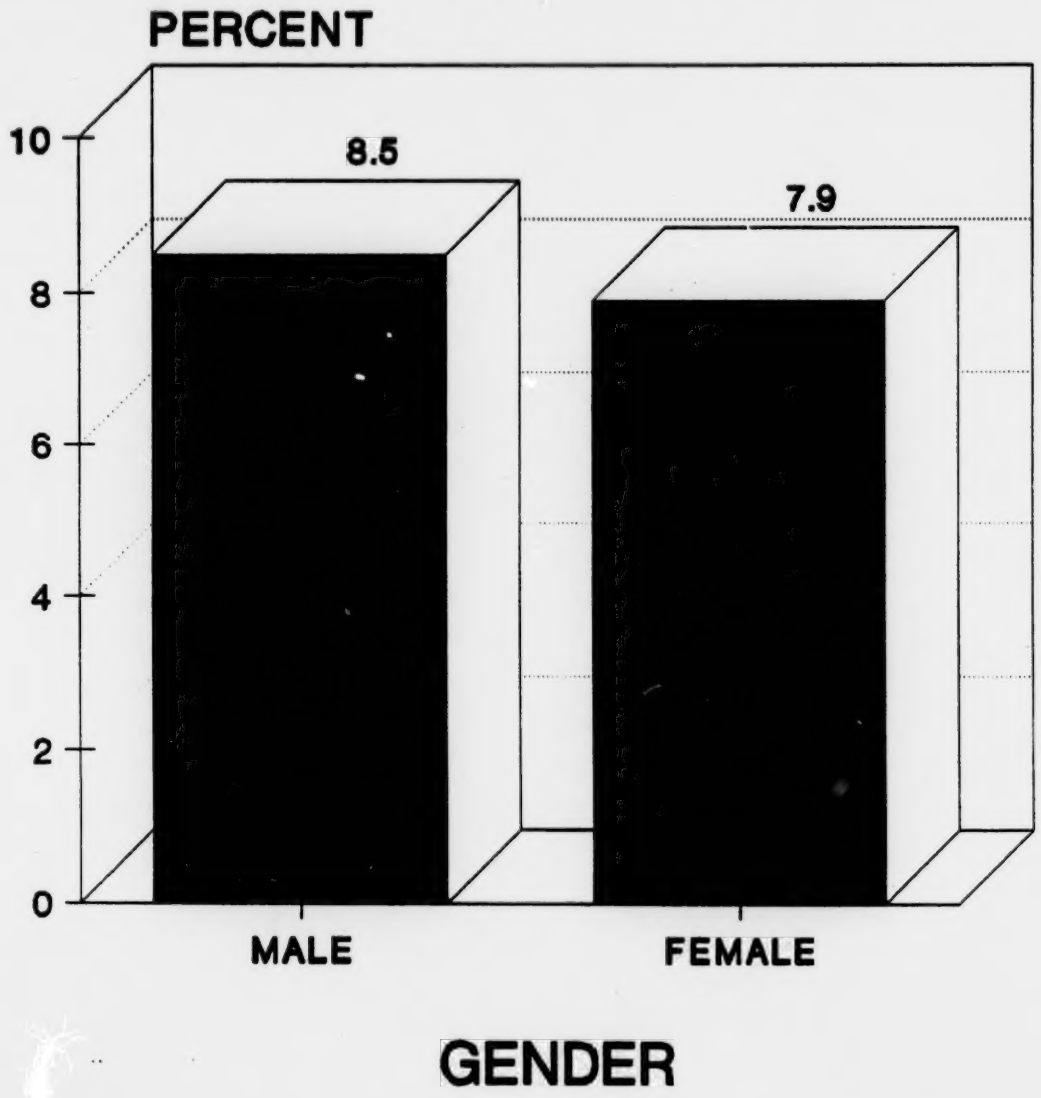

FIGURE 3

PERCENT OF DROPOUTS BY AGE (n=2,645)

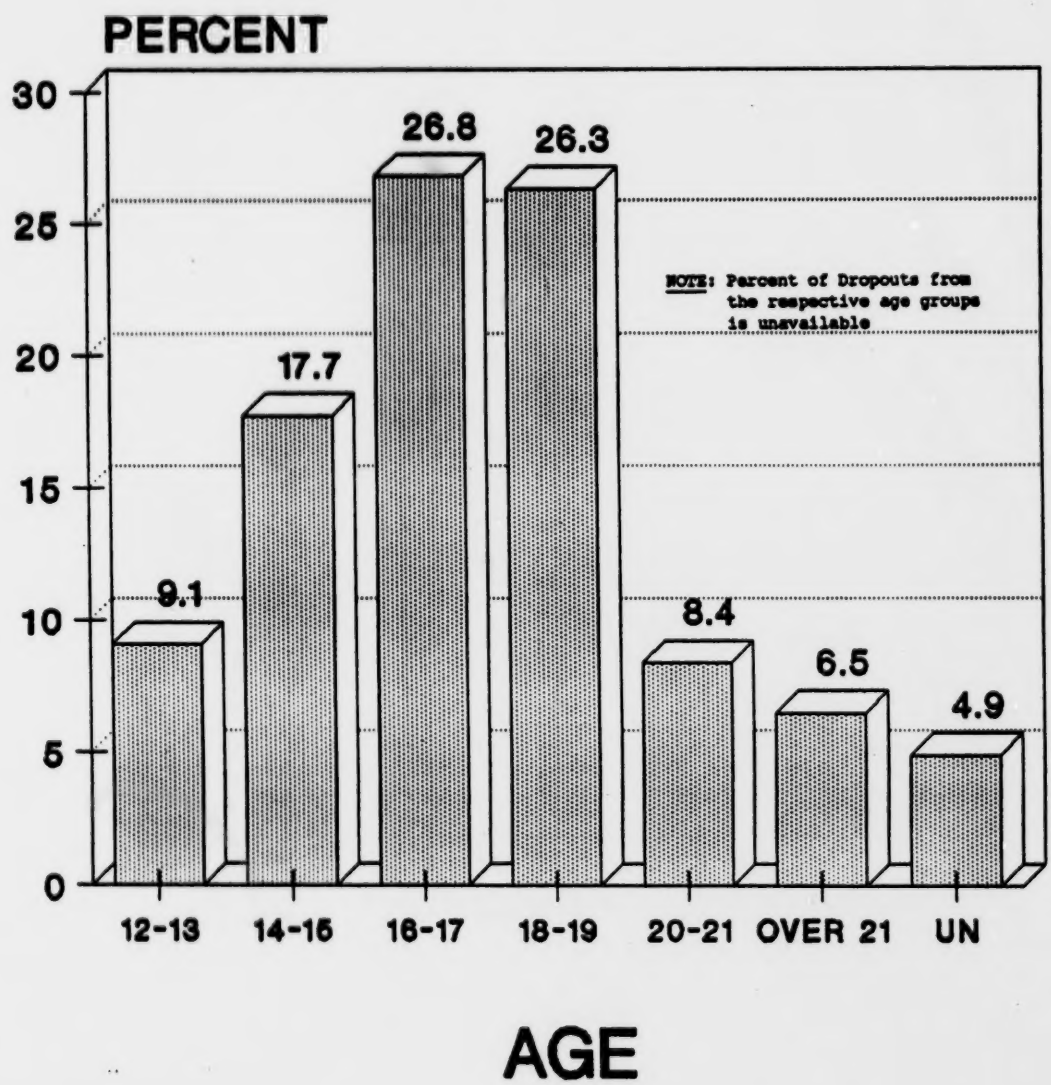

FIGURE 4

PERCENT OF DROPOUTS FROM GRADE MEMBERSHIP

(n=RESPECTIVE GRADE MEMBERSHIP)

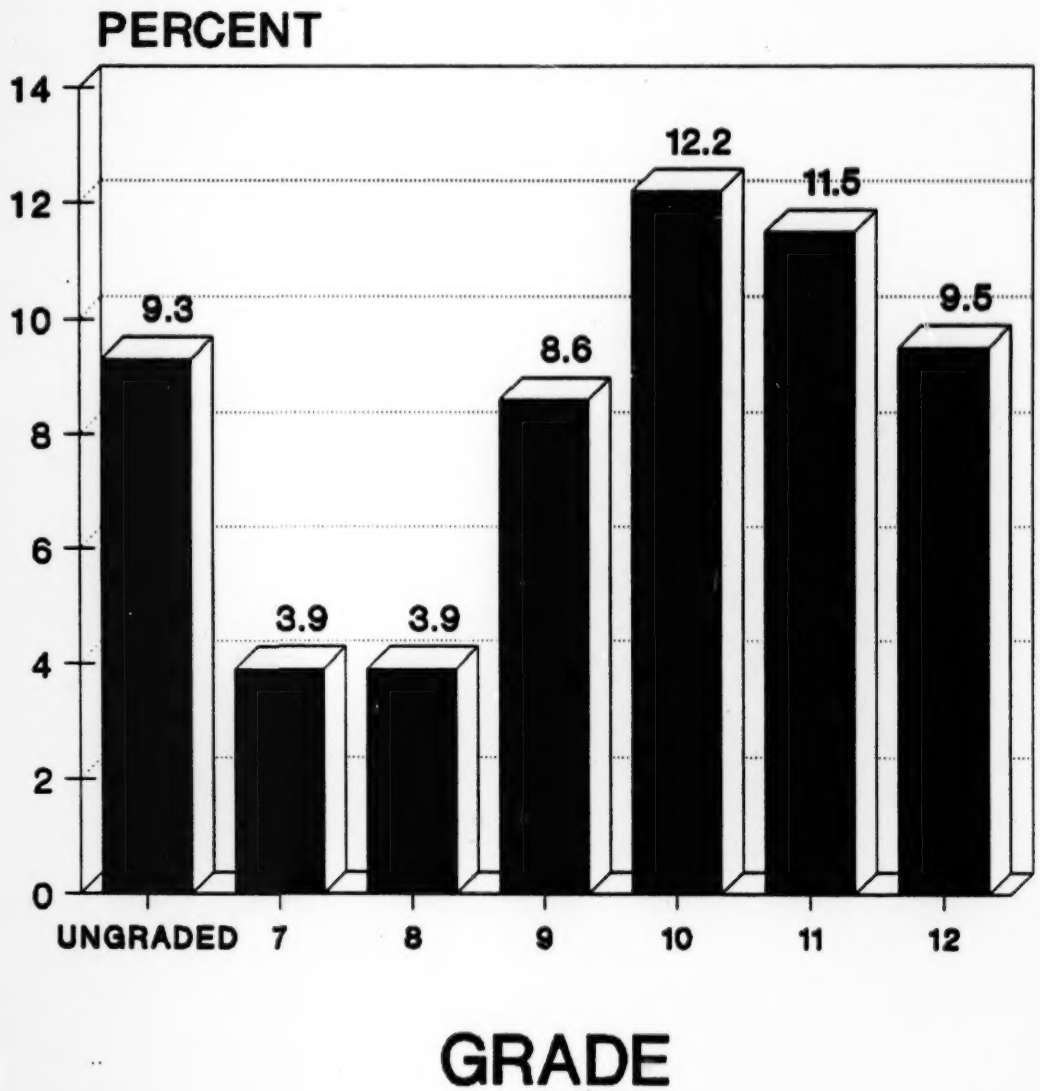

FIGURE 5

DROPOUT AND MIGRATION STATISTICS BY SCHOOL TYPE/LEVEL

(Secondary Students Only)

PERCENT OF DROPOUTS
FROM SCH-TYPE MEMBERSHIP
(n=RESPECTIVE SCHOOL TYPE MEMBERSHIP

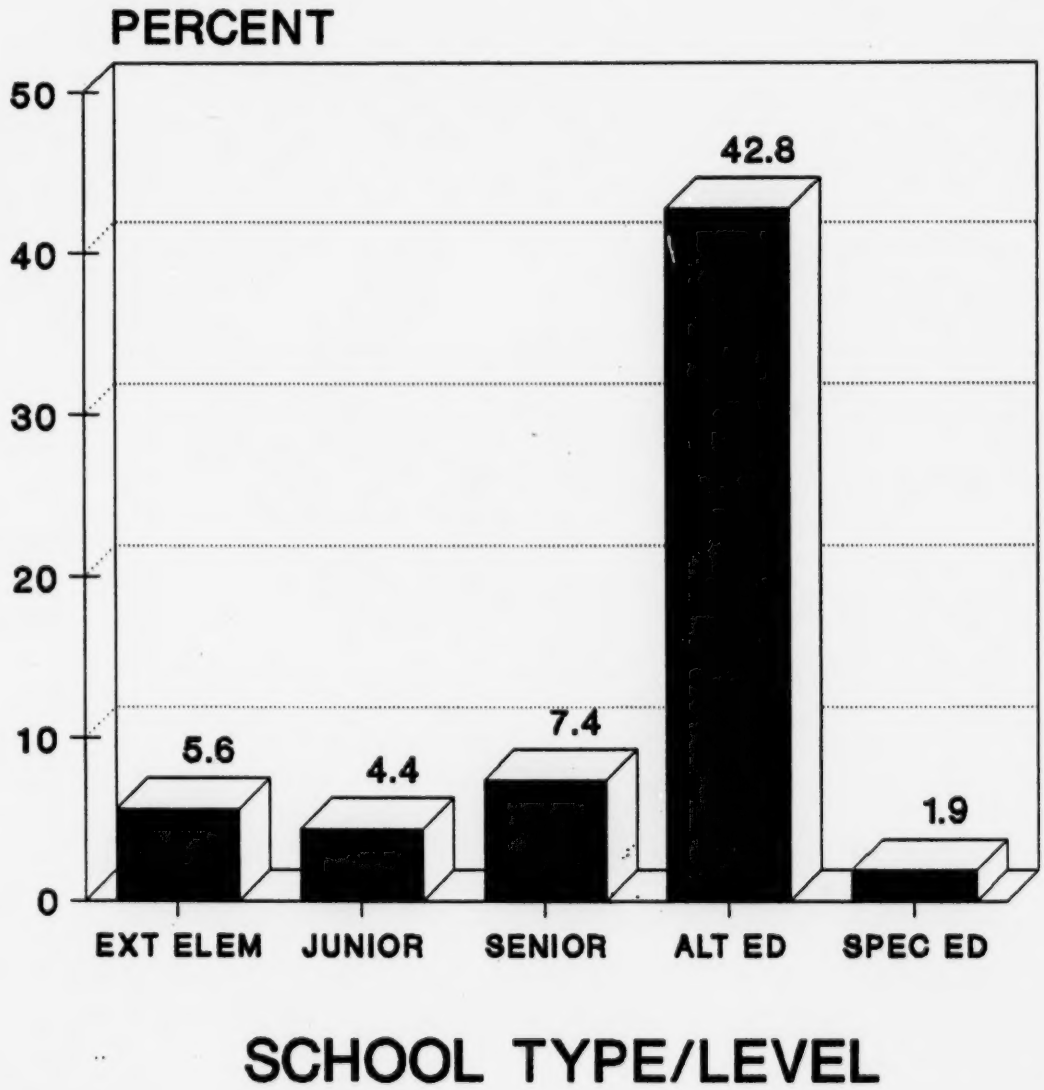

FIGURE 6

SY 1991-1992
D.C. PUBLIC SCHOOL LEAVER STATISTICS

EXTENDED ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS
(n=914)

GRADE	7	8	9	10	11	12	UN	TOTAL
DROPOUTS	22	30	0	0	0	0	0	52
COURT ORDERED WITHDRAWALS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
DEATH OR ILLNESS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TRF TO DCPS ADULT ED CTR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TRF TO D.C. PRIVATE SCH.	4	12	0	0	0	0	0	16
TRF OUT-OF-CITY	17	18	0	0	0	0	0	35
TRF TO JOB CORP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	43	60	0	0	0	0	0	103

DROPOUT RATE: $\frac{52}{914} \times 100 = 5.68\%$

MIGRATION (TRANSFER) RATE: $\frac{51}{914} \times 100 = 5.57\%$

SY 1991-1992
D.C. PUBLIC SCHOOL LEAVER STATISTICS

JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLS
(n=14475)

GRADE	7	8	9	10	11	12	UN	TOTAL
DROPOUTS	206	176	250	0	0	0	16	648
COURT ORDERED WITHDRAWALS	16	15	9	0	0	0	1	41
DEATH OR ILLNESS	1	4	3	0	0	0	0	8
TRF TO DCPS ADULT ED CTR	4	11	6	0	0	0	0	21
TRF TO D.C. PRIVATE SCH.	10	6	11	0	0	0	0	27
TRF OUT-OF-CITY	109	117	116	0	0	0	8	350
TRF TO JOB CORP	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	6
TOTAL	346	332	398	0	0	0	25	1101

DROPOUT RATE: $\frac{648}{14475} \times 100 = 4.47\%$

MIGRATION (TRANSFER) RATE: $\frac{404}{14475} \times 100 = 2.79\%$

SY 1991-1992
D.C. PUBLIC SCHOOL LEAVER STATISTICS

SENIOR HIGH SCHOOLS
(n=14207)

GRADE	7	8	9	10	11	12	UN	TOTAL
DROPOUTS	0	0	60	449	329	208	11	1057
COURT ORDERED WITHDRAWALS	0	0	7	18	5	7	2	39
DEATH OR ILLNESS	0	0	0	7	8	5	0	20
TRF TO DCPS ADULT ED CTR	0	0	8	23	8	5	0	44
TRF TO D.C. PRIVATE SCH.	0	0	4	7	3	0	0	14
TRF OUT-OF-CITY	0	0	31	105	79	33	1	249
TRF TO JOB CORP	0	0	1	15	8	0	0	24
TOTAL	0	0	111	624	440	258	14	1447

DROPOUT RATE: $\frac{1057}{14207} \times 100 = 7.44\%$

MIGRATION (TRANSFER) RATE: $\frac{331}{14207} \times 100 = 2.32\%$

SY 1991-1992
D.C. PUBLIC SCHOOL LEAVER STATISTICS

ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS
(n=2051)

GRADE	7	8	9	10	11	12	UN	TOTAL
DROPOUTS	0	0	146	226	174	162	171	879
COURT ORDERED WITHDRAWALS	0	0	1	1	0	2	0	4
DEATH OR ILLNESS	0	0	2	2	2	2	0	8
TRF TO DCPS ADULT ED CTR	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
TRF TO D.C. PRIVATE SCH.	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
TRF OUT-OF-CITY	0	0	4	5	1	0	0	10
TRF TO JOB CORP	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
TOTAL	0	0	154	236	178	166	171	905

DROPOUT RATE: $\frac{879}{2051} \times 100 = 42.85\%$

MIGRATION (TRANSFER) RATE: $\frac{14}{2051} \times 100 = 0.68\%$

SY 1991-1992
D.C. PUBLIC SCHOOL LEAVER STATISTICS

SPECIAL EDUCATION SCHOOLS
(n=467)

GRADE	7	8	9	10	11	12	UN	TOTAL
DROPOUTS	0	0	1	1	3	0	4	9
COURT ORDERED WITHDRAWALS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
DEATH OR ILLNESS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TRF TO DCPS ADULT ED CTR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TRF TO D.C. PRIVATE SCH.	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
TRF OUT-OF-CITY	2	0	0	0	0	0	8	10
TRF TO JOB CORP	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3
TOTAL	2	0	1	1	3	1	15	23

DROPOUT RATE: $\frac{9}{467} \times 100 = 1.92\%$

MIGRATION (TRANSFER) RATE: $\frac{14}{467} \times 100 = 2.99\%$

DROPOUT AND MIGRATION

STATISTICS BY WARD

(Secondary Students Only)

PERCENT OF DROPOUTS FROM WARD MEMBERSHIP
(n=RESPECTIVE WARD MEMBERSHIP)

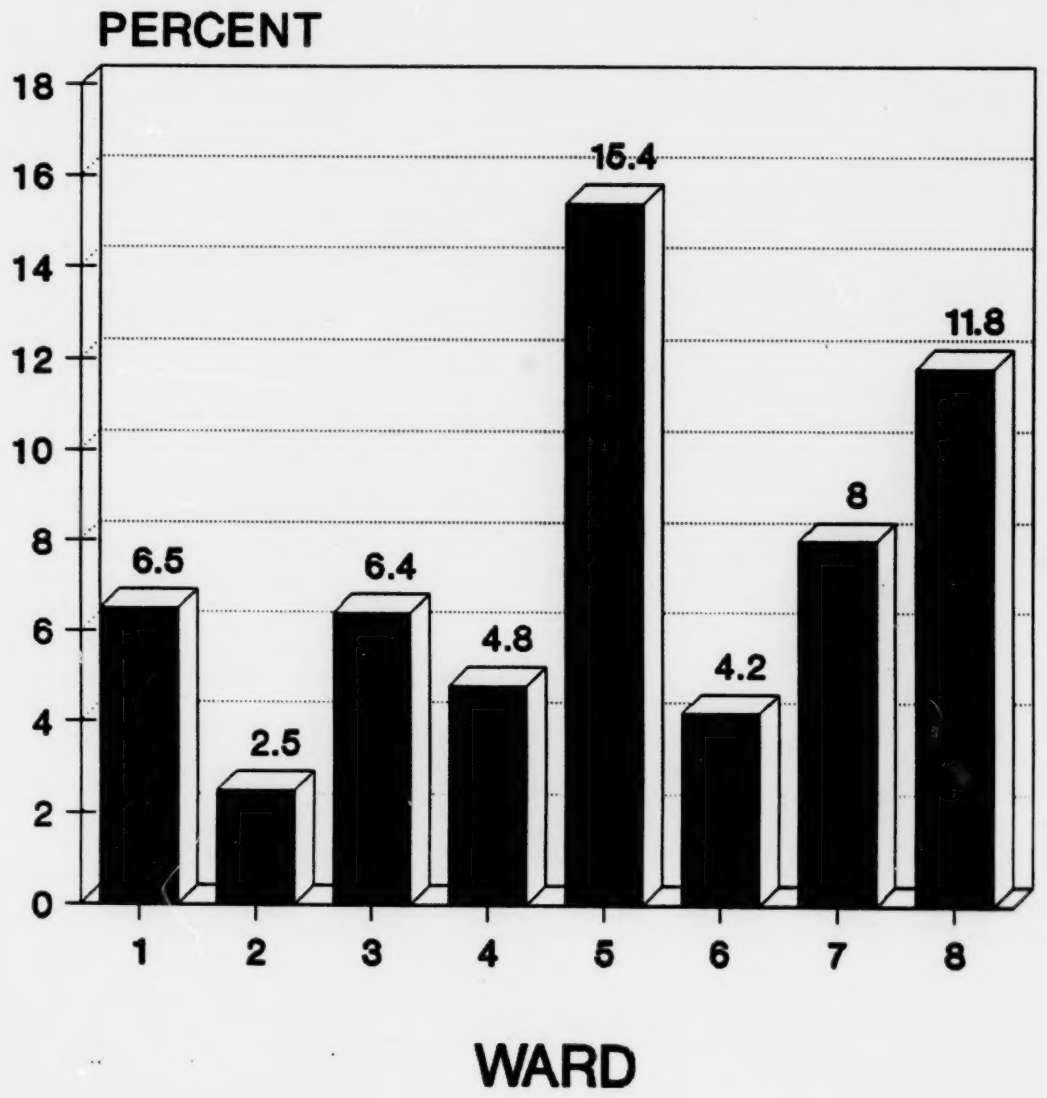

FIGURE 7

SY 1991-1992
D.C. PUBLIC SCHOOL LEAVER STATISTICS

WARD 1
(n=2956)

GRADE	7	8	9	10	11	12	UN	TOTAL
DROPOUTS	34	21	38	51	24	25	2	195
COURT ORDERED WITHDRAWALS	3	0	1	3	1	1	0	9
DEATH OR ILLNESS	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2
TRF TO DCPS ADULT ED CTR	1	1	8	18	4	3	0	35
TRF TO D.C. PRIVATE SCH.	2	0	1	2	0	0	0	5
TRF OUT-OF-CITY	11	15	13	18	9	4	2	72
TRF TO JOB CORP	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
TOTAL	51	37	62	93	39	34	4	320

DROPOUT RATE: $\frac{195}{2956} \times 100 = 6.59\%$

MIGRATION (TRANSFER) RATE: $\frac{114}{2956} \times 100 = 3.85\%$

SY 1991-1992
D.C. PUBLIC SCHOOL LEAVER STATISTICS

WARD 2
(n=2970)

GRADE	7	8	9	10	11	12	UN	TOTAL
DROPOUTS	18	10	45	0	1	1	0	75
COURT ORDERED WITHDRAWALS	4	3	2	0	0	0	0	9
DEATH OR ILLNESS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TRF TO DCPS ADULT ED CTR	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	6
TRF TO D.C. PRIVATE SCH.	3	2	9	0	0	0	0	14
TRF OUT-OF-CITY	35	33	49	0	3	2	0	122
TRF TO JOB CORP	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
TOTAL	60	51	109	0	4	3	0	227

DROPOUT RATE: $\frac{75}{2970} \times 100 = 2.52\%$

MIGRATION (TRANSFER) RATE: $\frac{143}{2970} \times 100 = 4.81\%$

SY 1991-1992
D.C. PUBLIC SCHOOL LEAVER STATISTICS

WARD 3
(n=3115)

GRADE	7	8	9	10	11	12	UN	TOTAL
DROPOUTS	12	19	31	62	56	18	3	201
COURT ORDERED WITHDRAWALS	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
DEATH OR ILLNESS	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
TRF TO DCPS ADULT ED CTR	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
TRF TO D.C. PRIVATE SCH.	5	12	1	3	2	0	0	23
TRF OUT-OF-CITY	17	17	12	20	18	6	0	90
TRF TO JOB CORP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	34	48	45	86	78	24	3	318

DROPOUT RATE: $\frac{201}{3115} \times 100 = 6.45\%$

MIGRATION (TRANSFER) RATE: $\frac{114}{3115} \times 100 = 3.65\%$

SY 1991-1992
D.C. PUBLIC SCHOOL LEAVER STATISTICS

WARD 4
(n=3830)

GRADE	7	8	9	10	11	12	UN	TOTAL
DROPOUTS	17	16	28	46	46	25	6	184
COURT ORDERED WITHDRAWALS	0	3	1	2	1	3	1	11
DEATH OR ILLNESS	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	3
TRF TO DCPS ADULT ED CTR	0	1	2	1	2	0	0	6
TRF TO D.C. PRIVATE SCH.	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
TRF OUT-OF-CITY	5	8	16	15	17	3	11	75
TRF TO JOB CORP	0	0	0	2	2	0	3	7
TOTAL	22	28	49	66	69	33	21	288

DROPOUT RATE: $\frac{184}{3830} \times 100 = 4.80\%$

MIGRATION (TRANSFER) RATE: $\frac{90}{3830} \times 100 = 2.34\%$

SY 1991-1992
D.C. PUBLIC SCHOOL LEAVER STATISTICS

WARD 5
(n=6351)

GRADE	7	8	9	10	11	12	UN	TOTAL
DROPOUTS	30	42	178	299	212	193	25	979
COURT ORDERED WITHDRAWALS	3	1	7	9	1	4	0	25
DEATH OR ILLNESS	1	1	3	4	4	3	0	16
TRF TO DCPS ADULT ED CTR	1	3	1	4	1	2	0	12
TRF TO D.C. PRIVATE SCH.	3	3	1	2	2	0	0	11
TRF OUT-OF-CITY	15	11	11	17	11	5	0	70
TRF TO JOB CORP	0	1	1	6	3	0	0	11
TOTAL	53	62	202	341	234	207	25	1124

DROPOUT RATE: $\frac{979}{6351} \times 100 = 15.41\%$

MIGRATION (TRANSFER) RATE: $\frac{104}{6351} \times 100 = 1.63\%$

SY 1991-1992
D.C. PUBLIC SCHOOL LEAVER STATISTICS

WARD 6
(n=4771)

GRADE	7	8	9	10	11	12	UN	TOTAL
DROPOUTS	21	24	28	48	24	57	2	204
COURT ORDERED WITHDRAWALS	4	1	1	1	2	0	0	9
DEATH OR ILLNESS	0	1	0	2	1	1	0	5
TRF TO DCPS ADULT ED CTR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TRF TO D.C. PRIVATE SCH.	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	2
TRF OUT-OF-CITY	16	17	13	16	7	6	0	75
TRF TO JOB CORP	0	1	0	1	3	0	0	5
TOTAL	41	44	43	68	37	65	2	300

DROPOUT RATE: $\frac{204}{4771} \times 100 = 4.27\%$

MIGRATION (TRANSFER) RATE: $\frac{82}{4771} \times 100 = 1.71\%$

SY 1991-1992
D.C. PUBLIC SCHOOL LEAVER STATISTICS

WARD 7
(n=3994)

GRADE	7	8	9	10	11	12	UN	TOTAL
DROPOUTS	52	59	50	68	72	11	8	320
COURT ORDERED WITHDRAWALS	1	2	2	2	0	1	0	8
DEATH OR ILLNESS	0	0	2	2	1	0	0	5
TRF TO DCPS ADULT ED CTR	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	3
TRF TO D.C. PRIVATE SCH.	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
TRF OUT-OF-CITY	19	22	21	7	7	1	3	80
TRF TO JOB CORP	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
TOTAL	74	85	76	80	80	13	11	419

DROPOUT RATE: $\frac{320}{3994} \times 100 = 8.01\%$

MIGRATION (TRANSFER) RATE: $\frac{86}{3994} \times 100 = 2.15\%$

SY 1991-1992
D.C. PUBLIC SCHOOL LEAVER STATISTICS

WARD 8
(n=4097)

GRADE	7	8	9	10	11	12	UN	TOTAL
DROPOUTS	44	15	59	102	71	40	156	487
COURT ORDERED WITHDRAWALS	1	5	2	1	0	0	2	11
DEATH OR ILLNESS	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	4
TRF TO DCPS ADULT ED CTR	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	4
TRF TO D.C. PRIVATE SCH.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TRF OUT-OF-CITY	10	12	16	17	8	6	1	70
TRF TO JOB CORP	0	1	1	5	0	0	0	7
TOTAL	56	37	78	127	80	46	159	583

DROPOUT RATE: $\frac{487}{4097} \times 100 = 11.88\%$

MIGRATION (TRANSFER) RATE: $\frac{81}{4097} \times 100 = 1.97\%$

DROPOUT AND MIGRATION

STATISTICS BY SCHOOL

(Secondary Students Only)

D.C. PUBLIC SCHOOLS DROPOUT AND MIGRATION RATES BY SCHOOLS SCHOOL YEAR 1991-92

(Grades 7-12)

SCHOOL	DROPOUT PERCENT	DROPOUT NUMBER	MIGRATION PERCENT 1/	MIGRATION NUMBER
Anacostia SHS	1.64	12	1.36	10
Backus JHS	3.58	9	2.76	7
Ballou SHS	6.05	86	2.74	39
Ballou STAY	70.21	304	0.00	0
Banneker SHS	0.00	0	2.28	9
Bell-MCI SHS	3.96	26	6.41	42
Brookland ES	6.25	5	7.50	6
Browne JHS	2.04	14	2.33	16
Buchanan ES	4.24	5	2.54	3
Cardozo SHS	9.08	83	2.40	22
Coolidge SHS	6.74	65	1.55	15
D.C. Street Academy	40.99	116	2.47	7
Deal JHS	4.15	41	2.53	25
Douglass JHS	8.00	28	0.57	2
Dunbar SHS	8.12	70	1.97	17
Eastern SHS	5.66	115	1.32	27
Eliot JHS	3.12	14	2.22	10
Ellington SHS	7.85	34	3.92	17
Evans JHS	5.32	20	2.92	11
Fletcher-Johnson ES	10.38	47	1.54	7
Fort Lincoln ES	11.93	13	0.91	1
Francis JHS	4.49	28	9.79	61
Garnett-Patterson JHS	13.19	31	5.10	12
Hardy ES	4.58	6	22.13	29
Harris,P.R. ES	4.00	27	1.92	13
Hart JHS	2.34	17	2.75	20
Hine JHS	2.68	22	2.80	23
Jefferson JHS	1.60	13	3.31	27
Johnson JHS	5.06	25	1.41	7
Kramer JHS	5.99	26	1.38	6
Langley JHS	9.95	38	1.04	4
Lee,M.D. ES	0.43	1	3.87	9
Lincoln JHS	7.26	55	3.82	29
Macfarland JHS	3.49	13	2.94	11
McKinley SHS	12.94	122	0.63	6
Merritt ES	4.76	3	1.58	1
Miller JHS	3.40	14	2.66	11
Paul JHS	3.45	22	1.09	7
Phelps SHS	13.39	62	0.86	4
Rabaut JHS	2.35	8	1.17	4
River Terrace ES	15.38	4	7.69	2

D.C. PUBLIC SCHOOLS DROPOUT AND MIGRATION
RATES BY SCHOOLS
SCHOOL YEAR 1991-92

(Grades 7-12)

(continued)

	SCHOOL	DROPOUT PERCENT	DROPOUT NUMBER	MIGRATION PERCENT r/	MIGRATION NUMBER
	Roosevelt SHS	6.84	67	3.57	35
	Roper JHS	3.28	14	4.69	20
	School W/O Walls SHS	1.15	3	3.05	8
	Senate Page SHS	0.00	0	0.00	0
	Sharpe Health ES	2.56	3	1.70	2
	Shaw JHS	2.33	23	4.04	40
	Sousa JHS	4.42	25	1.41	8
	Spingarn SHS	7.05	37	4.00	21
	Spingarn STAY	35.80	285	0.00	0
	Stuart-Hobson MS	5.38	10	1.61	3
	Taft JHS	7.39	34	1.73	8
	Takoma ES	0.92	1	3.70	4
	Terrell JHS	2.84	8	2.48	7
	Washington, M.M. SHS	10.42	10	3.12	3
s/	Washington-Dix St.	39.71	164	0.96	4
	West ES	5.12	4	3.84	3
	Wilson SHS	7.67	120	2.74	43
	Winston ES	4.51	6	1.50	2
	Woodson, C.G. JHS	6.71	32	1.67	8
	Woodson, H.D. SHS	14.58	155	1.50	16
	TOTAL	8.23	2645	2.53	814

r/ Students transferred to DCPS adult education programs, D.C. private schools, D.C. Job Corps, and out-of-city

s/ School operates on a tri-mester basis

NOTE: Data was obtained from the official membership files of the Student Information Management System (SIMS) and verified by local schools

APPENDIX

** GLOSSARY OF TERMS

** DCPS DROPOUT DEFINITION

** TWO-YEAR TRENDS AMONG SECONDARY SCHOOL DROPOUTS

** DCPS DROPOUT RATES FOR THE PAST FIVE YEARS

** PROJECTED 4-YEAR DROPOUT RATE

** DROPOUT RATES IN SELECTED URBAN CITIES AND SURROUNDING JURISDICTIONS

** D.C. PUBLIC SCHOOLS WITH SECONDARY STUDENTS

** D.C. PUBLIC SCHOOLS BY WARD

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Attrition - the proportion of students enrolled during school year 1991-92 but who did not re-enroll the following Fall 1992 including graduates, transfers, the incapacitated and dropouts; includes all school leavers

Automated Data Collection - data retrieved through computerized procedures using the Student Information Management System (SIMS)

Cohort - a single group of students identified by a specific grade level

Demographic Data - distinguishing qualities of the student population pertaining to geographical (i.e., school and ward) and biographical (ethnic group, gender, age and grade) characteristics

Dropout - See Appendix, Page a-2 for definitions according to D.C. Public Schools and the U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics

Longitudinal Dropout Rate - the percentage of an initial cohort of senior high school students who did not complete school and were not enrolled at their scheduled time of graduation

Manual Data Collection - data retrieved from local schools through written requests

Migration - student transfers out-of-city and to optional educational programs such as D.C. private schools, DCPS adult education programs, D.C.job corps

Out-Migration - out-of-city transfers only

Status Dropout Rate - the percentage of the population who have not completed high school and are not enrolled at one point in time, regardless of when they dropped out; the status dropout rate reported by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) reflects individuals between the ages of 16 and 19 years old only

Synthetic Cohort Projection Formula - a formula that applies information collected from several cohorts at the same time to estimate the outcome of a single cohort if it were followed over time; the formula assumes that no major year-to-year changes will occur in the grade-specific dropout rates; formula is used to project the 4-year dropout rate

DROPOUT DEFINITION

D.C. Public Schools

" A DROPOUT IS A STUDENT WHO LEAVES SCHOOL PRIOR TO GRADUATION OR COMPLETION OF A FORMAL HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION OR LEGAL EQUIVALENT, AND WHO DOES NOT ENTER ANOTHER PUBLIC OR PRIVATE EDUCATION INSTITUTION OR RECOGNIZED EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM WITHIN 45 CONSECUTIVE SCHOOL DAYS"

U.S. Department of Education

As a participant in the National Cooperative Education Statistics System of the U.S. Department of Education, the DCPS dropout definition has been expanded to include an individual who:

"(1) WAS ENROLLED IN SCHOOL AT SOME TIME DURING THE PREVIOUS SCHOOL YEAR; (2) WAS NOT ENROLLED AT THE BEGINNING OF THE CURRENT SCHOOL YEAR; (3) HAS NOT GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL OR COMPLETED A STATE- OR DISTRICT-APPROVED EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM, AND (4) DOES NOT MEET ANY OF THE EXCLUSIONARY CONDITIONS: (i) TRANSFER TO ANOTHER PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT, PRIVATE SCHOOL, OR STATE OR DISTRICT APPROVED EDUCATION PROGRAM, (ii) TEMPORARY ABSENCE DUE TO SUSPENSION OR SCHOOL APPROVED ILLNESS, OR (iii) DEATH" (NCES, 1991b).

NOTE: DCPS definition developed by the Council of Great City Schools and adopted by the D. C. Board of Education on May 21, 1986; U.S. Department of Education definition developed during the Dropout Statistics Field Test, 1989-91.

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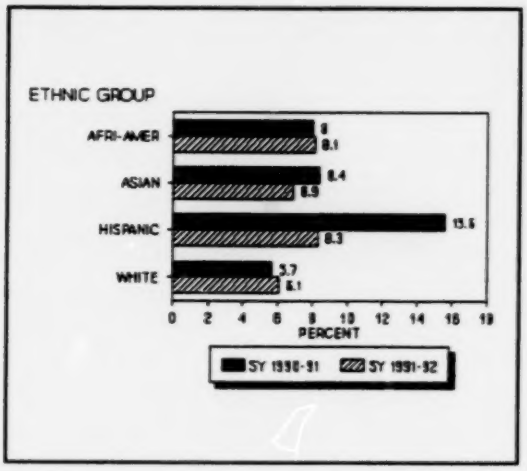
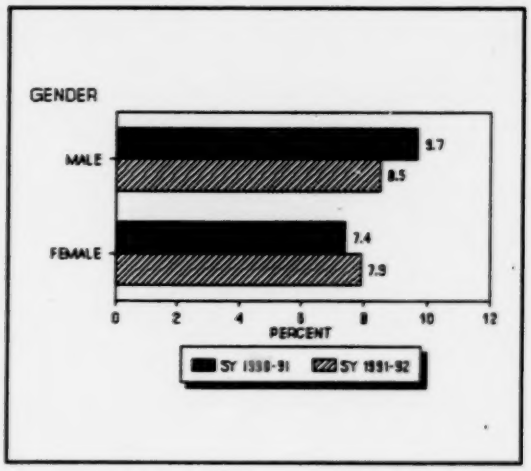
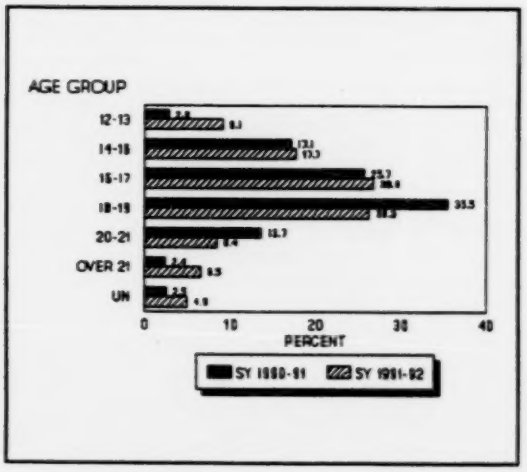
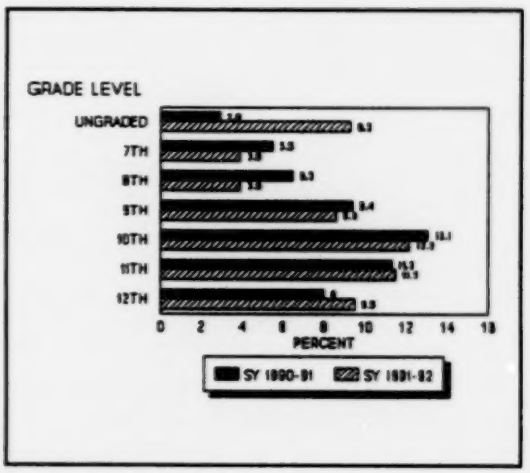
2-YEAR TRENDS AMONG SECONDARY SCHOOL DROPOUTS

(SYs 1990-91 and 1991-92)









D.C. PUBLIC SCHOOL DROPOUT RATES FOR THE PAST FIVE YEARS

(SYs 1988-92)

The method for computing the DCPS dropout rates has changed drastically over the past five years, resulting into a large difference between past and present figures. For the SYs 1986-87 through 1988-89 the dropout rates were computed using a longitudinal formula which did not take several student factors into account. In sum, the formula took the tenth grade class (cohort) and examined their graduation rate three years later. All students of this cohort who were not a part of the graduating class were counted as dropouts. The formula did not account for: (1) students who migrated out of the District of Columbia; (2) students who left their regular school but transferred to adult education centers; and (3) students who were retained in grade and took extra time to graduate. We know that many DCPS student do, in fact, migrate out of the city and we know that between 18% and 20% of the tenth grade class is retained and do not graduate on time. The inadequacy of this formula has lead to the present method of tracking students annually in order to conduct an actual "head-count" of dropouts. School year 1989-90 was the first year the annual identification and tracking procedures were implemented.

School Year	Secondary Student Dropout Rate
1987-88	a/ 42.58%
1988-89	a/ 42.43%
1989-90	b/ 10.37%
1990-91	b/ 9.10%
1991-92	b/ 8.23%

a/ computed using the three year longitudinal formula (cohort rate)
b/ computed using the annual tracking procedures (event rate)

PROJECTED 4-YEAR DROPOUT RATE FOR D.C. PUBLIC SCHOOLS

$$\{ 1 - [(1-W) (1-X) (1-Y) (1-Z)] \} \times 100$$

(SY 1991-92)

W = Annual dropout rate for grade 09 (8.62%)
X = Annual dropout rate for grade 10 (12.24%)
Y = Annual dropout rate for grade 11 (11.59%)
Z = Annual dropout rate for grade 12 (9.62%)

Projected Dropout Rate by SY 94-95 for SY 91-92 9th Grade Cohort

$$\{ 1 - [(1-.0862) (1-.1224) (1-.1159) (1-.0962)] \} \times 100$$

$$\{ 1 - [(.9138) (.8776) (.8441) (.9038)] \} \times 100$$

$$\{ 1 - .6407 \} \times 100 = \mathbf{35.92\%}$$

NOTE: Formula adopted from the U.S. Department of education, National Center of Educational Statistics (synthetic cohort rates computation). Formula assumes that: (a) grade level dropout rates will remain constant over the 4-year period; and (b) dropouts will not return to school

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DROPOUT RATES FOR A SAMPLE OF URBAN AND SUBURBAN SCHOOL DISTRICTS

SCHOOL DISTRICTS	DROPOUT RATE	GRADE LEVEL	SCHOOL YEAR(S)
Atlanta	4.6%	9-12	91-92 (9 mos.)
Baltimore City	10.3% 16.3%	9-12 9-12	1991 (9 mos.) 1992 (9 mos.)
Baltimore County	4.0%	9-12	91-92 (9 mos.)
Chicago	13.1%	9-12	91-92 (12 mos.)
Dade County	7.4%	9-12	91-92 (12 mos.)
Detroit	28.0%	9-12	87-92 (4 yrs.)
Los Angeles	14.9%	10-12	90-91 (12 mos.)
Memphis	10.3%	9-12	91-92 (12 mos.)
Newark	4.0%	9-12	91-92 (9 mos.)
Philadelphia	8.0%	9-12	90-91 (10 mos.)
District of Columbia	8.2%	7-12	91-92 (12 mos.)
DISTRICTS SURROUNDING THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA			
Alexandria	N/A		
Fairfax	1.8%	7-12	91-92 (12 mos.)
Montgomery County	2.3%	9-12	91-92 (12 mos.)
Prince George's Co.	3.9%	9-12	91-92 (9 mos.)

N/A = Not Available

D.C. PUBLIC SCHOOLS WITH
SECONDARY STUDENTS

(SY 1991-92)

Extended Elementary Schools

Brookland Elem.
Fletcher Johnson Educ. Ctr.
Fort Lincoln Elem.
Hardy Middle
Harris, P.R. Educ. Ctr.
Merritt Elem.
River Terrace Commun. Sch.
Stuart-Hobson Middle
Takoma Elem.
West Elem.
Winston Elem.

Junior High Schools

Backus Junior High
Browne Junior High
Deal Junior High
Douglass Junior High
Eliot Junior High
Evans Junior High
Francis Junior High
Garnett-Patterson Junior High
Hart Junior High
Hine Junior High
Jefferson Junior High
Johnson Junior High
Kramer Junior High
Langley Junior High
Lincoln Junior High
MacFarland Junior High
Miller Junior High
Paul Junior High
Rabaut Junior High
Roper Junior High
Shaw Junior High
Sousa Junior High
Taft Junior High
Terrell Junior High
Woodson, C.G. Junior High

Senior High Schools

Anacostia Senior High
Ballou Senior High
Banneker Senior High
Bell Multicultural High
Cardozo Senior High
Coolidge Senior High
Dunbar Senior High
Eastern Senior High
Ellington Senior High
McKinley Senior High
Phelps Senior High
Roosevelt Senior High
School W/O Walls Sr. High
Spingarn Senior High
Wilson Senior High
Woodson, H.D. Senior High

Alternative Schools

Ballou S.T.A.Y.
D.C. Street Academy
Washington, M. M. School
Washington-Dix Street
Senate Page School
Spingarn S.T.A.Y.

Special Education Centers

Buchanan Secondary L/C
Lee, Mamie D. L/C
Sharpe Health L/C

D.C. PUBLIC SCHOOLS LISTED BY WARD

WARD 1

Banneker Senior High
Bell Multicultural Senior High
Cardozo Senior High
Garnett-Patterson Junior High
Lincoln Junior High

WARD 2

Francis Junior High
Jefferson Junior High
School W/O Walls Senior High
Shaw Junior High
Terrell Junior High

WARD 3

Deal Junior High
Ellington Senior High
Hardy Middle School
Wilson Senior High

WARD 4

Coolidge Senior High
MacFarland Junior High
Lee, Mamie D. Learning Ctr.
Paul Junior High
Rabaut Junior High
Roosevelt Senior High
Sharpe Health Learning Ctr.
Takoma Elementary
West Elementary

WARD 5

Backus Junior High
Brookland Elementary
Brown Junior High
D.C. Street Academy
Dunbar Senior High
Fort Lincoln Elementary
Langley Junior High
McKinley Senior High
Phelps Senior High
Spingarn Senior High
Spingarn S.T.A.Y.
Taft Junior High
Washington, M.M. Senior High
Washington-Dix St. Academy

WARD 6

Anacostia Senior High
Buchanan Learning Ctr.
Eastern Senior High
Eliot Junior High
Hine Junior High
Kramer Junior High
Senate Page Senior High
Stuart-Hobson Middle

WARD 7

Evans Junior High
Fletcher-Johnson Educ. Ctr.
Merritt Elementary
Miller Junior High
River Terrace Community Sch.
Roper Junior High
Sousa Junior High
Winston Elementary
Woodson, C.G. Junior High
Woodson, H.D. Senior High

WARD 8

Ballou Senior High
Ballou S.T.A.Y.
Douglass Junior High
Harris, P.R. Educ. Ctr.
Hart Junior High
Johnson Junior High